



Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method of producing a cover for covering a vehicle airbag, the method comprising the steps of:
 - providing a three-dimensionally molded airbag cover;
 - forming a tear line with a predetermined depth within the thickness of the airbag cover by ultrasonic processing.
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
 - determining a first distance between a processing edge of an ultrasonic processing mechanism and a predetermined location on the ultrasonic processing mechanism, and
 - determining a second distance between a processing surface of the airbag cover and the predetermined location on the ultrasonic processing mechanism.
3. (Original) The method of Claim 2, further comprising the step of estimating the depth of the tear line based on the determined first and second distances.
4. (Original) The method of Claim 2, further comprising the step of estimating the residual thickness of the cover at the tear line based on the determined first and second distances.
5. (Original) The method of Claim 2, wherein the first distance is calculated between the edge of a blade and the predetermined location.
6. (Original) A cover for a vehicle airbag comprising:
 - a three-dimensionally molded plate;
 - a continuous linear groove with a predetermined depth located in the plate;
 - wherein the groove is formed by ultrasonic waves.
7. (Original) An airbag module comprising:
 - an airbag;
 - a cover for covering the vehicle airbag;
 - an accommodating member for accommodating the vehicle airbag; and

a gas supplying mechanism for supplying inflation gas so that the vehicle airbag is deployed and inflated from the accommodating member,

wherein the cover comprises a three-dimensionally molded plate-shaped structure and has a linear groove which is continuously disposed with a predetermined depth within the thickness of the airbag cover, and

wherein, the module is configured so that when a vehicle collides at a location which is situated in front of the vehicle, the vehicle airbag is deployed by the inflation gas supplied from the gas supplying mechanism, causing the airbag cover to tear at the linear groove, so that the vehicle airbag is further deployed and inflated in a rider protection area which is situated in front of a rider.

8. (New) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

providing an ultrasonic processing mechanism, wherein the ultrasonic processing mechanism comprises a meter that measures distances;

further comprising the step of determining a distance between the meter and a processing edge of the ultrasonic processing mechanism.

9. (New) The method of Claim 8, wherein the distance between the meter and the processing edge is determined by subtracting a distance between the processing edge and a surface from a distance between the meter and the surface.

10. (New) The method of Claim 9, wherein the surface is a surface of a reference block.

11. (New) The method of Claim 8, wherein the processing edge is a blade edge.

12. (New) The method of Claim 8, further comprising the step of determining a processing depth for the ultrasonic processing mechanism.

13. (New) The method of Claim 12, wherein the processing depth is determined by subtracting a distance between the meter and a surface of the airbag cover from the distance between the meter and the processing edge.

14. (New) The method of Claim 13, wherein a plurality of detection points is used to determine the distance between the meter and a surface of the airbag cover.

15. (New) The method of Claim 12, further comprising the step of determining a residual thickness of the airbag cover.